

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 7-14 were objected to because of improper multiple dependencies. In response, the claims have been amended to correct the improper multiple dependencies, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 7-14 are now in condition for a favorable action on the merits.

On the merits, claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Murata et al, with claims 1 and 2 being rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murata in view of Tanigawa et al and claim 3 being rejected under §103(a) as unpatentable over the foregoing references and further in view of Pilniak, all for the reasons of record. Although no express rejections of claims 4, 5, and 6 appear to be presented in the Action, it will be assumed for the purpose of advancing prosecution that these claims also stand rejected under §103.

In response to the outstanding rejections, independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to more narrowly, specifically and precisely recite a structure of at least one spiral-shaped slit formed in the plate, with the spiral-shaped slit comprising at least two full 360° loops. Express support for these additional limitations may be found, *inter alia* in Figs. 2, 7 and 8, and the associated description thereof in the instant specification.

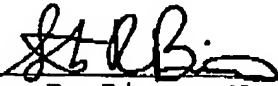
It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 15, as herein amended, are now clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied references. Specifically, it is noted that the corresponding structure of Murata does not show or suggest a spiral-shaped slit having at least two full 360° loops, and in fact the spiral-shaped slit is expressly described in Murata as being merely a slit "which is machined to cover the outer periphery of the opening 11 of the conductor 1" (col. 2, lines 34-37).

Additionally, independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to further recite that the two full loops are formed around a solid center, and as such the claims are further distinguishable over Murata, wherein the slit is formed around an opening 11 at its center. Furthermore, neither of the other cited and applied references is believed to show or suggest an inductive function formed by a structure having at least 1 spiral-shaped slit comprising at least two full 360° loops around a solid center.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 15, as herein amended, and the remaining claims depending therefrom, are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied references. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 7-14 are now in condition for a favorable action on the merits. Accordingly, allowance of the instant application is respectfully submitted to

be justified at the present time, and favorably consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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